

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 066811

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SP-03 SCS-03 EUR-25 L-03

INRE-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 /113 R

DRAFTED BY: ARA/CEN:DLAZAR

APPROVED BY: ARA/CEN:DLAZAR

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O R 031625Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 066811

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GT

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE - EXPULSION OF MARYKNOLL PRIESTS

1. FYI--FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE

WAS PREPARED FOR NOON

BRIEFING TO BE USED ON "IF ASKED" BASIS:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

Q: HAS THE GOG EXPELLED TWO AMERICAN MARYKNOLL PRIESTS?

A: YES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT TWO AMERICAN PRIESTS DEPARTED GUATEMALA APRIL 2 AT THE INSISTANCE OF THE GOG. PRIESTS OF OTHER NATIONALITIES AND ORDERS WERE ALSO TO BE EXPELLED, PERHAPS AS MANY AS SEVEN. ANOTHER AMERICAN PRIEST WHOSE STATUS HAD BEEN QUESTIONED WAS PERMITTED TO REMAIN. IN ADDITION THERE ARE ABOUT 15 OTHER MARYKNOLL PRIESTS STILL WORKING IN GUATEMALA. THEIR STATUS HAS NOT BEEN QUESTIONED.

Q: WHY WERE THEY EXPELLED?

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 066811

A: WE DO NOT KNOW THE SPECIFIC CHARGES AGAINST THEM. THE

GOG ALLEGES THEY ENGAGED IN PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS HELD MARCH 3. THE AMERICAN PRIESTS HAVE DENIED THIS ALLEGATION.

Q: WHAT IS USG POLICY IN CASES OF THIS TYPE?

A: IN THE VIEW OF THE USG, RECEPTION OF THE NATIONALS OF ONE STATE BY ANOTHER IS NORMAL PRACTICE IN THE MODERN WORLD AND SUPPORTS USEFUL TRANSNATIONAL RELATIONS. THUS, WHILE NOT QUESTIONING A HOST STATE'S RECOGNIZED LEGAL RIGHTS TO EXERCISE CONTROL OVER THE STAY, AND DEPARTURE OF FOREIGN NATIONALS, THE U.S. HOLDS TO THE VIEW THAT UNDER INTER-NATIONAL LAW A FOREIGN NATIONAL SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECTED TO ARBITRARY OR DISCRIMINATORY ACTION. IN DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS, FOR EXAMPLE, PROPER PRACTICE REQUIRES ADEQUATE NOTICE OF GROUNDS AND A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO ALLEGATIONS UNDERLYING THE PROPOSED DEPORTATION.

Q: WERE THE TWO PRIESTS GIVEN SUCH A HEARING?

A: NO.

Q: DID THE USG INTERCEDE ON THE PRIESTS' BEHALF?

A: THE EMBASSY DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH SEVERAL GUATEMALAN OFFICIALS. THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE ORDER SPOKE WITH A NUMBER OF OFFICIALS INCLUDING SOME HIGH-RANKING MEMBERS OF THE GOG IN AN ATTEMPT TO LEARN THE SPECIFICS AND CONVEY THE AMERICAN CITIZENS' PROTESTATIONS OF INNOCENCE.

Q: HOW CAN THE GUATEMALANS DO THIS?

A: WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOG DID NOT ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR OWN LAWS.

Q: IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT GOING TO TAKE ANY FURTHER ACTION?

A: THIS IS UNDER CONSIDERATION AT THE MOMENT.

Q: WHAT KIND OF ACTION IS BEING CONTEMPLATED?

A: IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS THAT MATTER NOW.

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PAGE 03 STATE 066811

2. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON ABOVE FOR GUIDANCE SHOULD QUESTION ARISE. RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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